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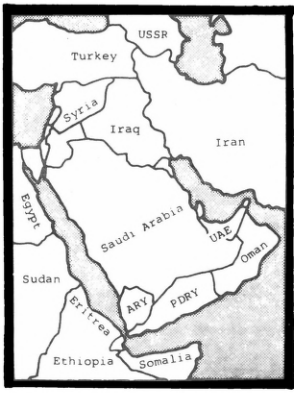

News from Oman

(Dhofar Letter)

No. 34 August 1979

MILITARY OPERATIONS IN DHOFAR

According to traditional practise the PFLO has marked the anniversary of the "June 9th Revolution" by carrying out a number of military operations in Dhofar(the southern province of Oman).

On the 9th May a battle between forces of the People's Liberation Army and forces of the Muscat regime took place in the Aran heights, north of the town of Taqa in the eastern zone of the Dhofar region. According to a military communique issued by the Liberation Army, the battle lasted for 11 continuous hours. During the battle the enemy landed new forces and supplies from helicopters. The losses of the enemy were as follows: the commander, a British major, and a Baluchi lieutenant were killed, and 15 soldiers were killed or wounded. Three comrades of the Liberation Army were killed, namely Abu Nasir, member of the Central Command of the PFLO, Adnan Ahmed an-Nubi, member of the local command of the Dhofar region, and Bakhit Ahmed Ali.

Following the battle local tribesmen wanted to bury the bodies of the killed comrades of the Liberation Army. However, this was refused by Burayk, the Govenor of Dhofar and minister in the government, who had arrived after the battle. Three weeks later, on the 1st June, Burayk was assassinated as he was leaving the port of Raysut. It is not known who was behind the killing.

Burayk was responsible for the policy of the regime which is carried out in Dhofar. By various methods the local intelligence service in Salala tries to create a state of inse-

curity and lawlessness in Dhofar. The intelligence service is under the leadership of a British officer named Brown. Brown has organized a network of local stooges who are trying to provoke tribal conflicts in the area, forexample by stealing animals from the tribesmen. A communique issued by the Liberation Army reports that the intelligence service in Salala has been using electric torture during interrogation of the two wounded comrades, Salih Khamis Rajab and Sa'id Musallam Hajiran, who were captured during the battles.(The above is based on reports transmitted over Aden Voice of Oman Revolution and quoted in Summary of World Broadcasts 6-14 and 7-7, 1979).

On the 19th May the Liberation Army operating in the eastern zone of Dhofar was involved in a battle which continued for six hours. The losses of the enemy were: lo men, killed or wounded, including a British officer. One comrade of the Liberation Army was killed, and a wounded comrade was taken prisoner. Already the following day, on the 2oth May, the Liberation Army attacked the enemy again in the eastern Dhofar, using small arms and hand grenades. The battle continued for eight and a half hours. The enemy lost 19 men who were killed or wounded. One comrade of the Liberation Army was killed. The following day the area was bombed, but none of the inhabitants suffered during these attacks.(Aden Voice of Oman Revolution, quoted in SWB 7-6,79).

The military positions of the enemy along "The Red Line" are specially favoured targets for the operations of the Liberation Army. "The Red Line" is the road which connects Muscat, the capital, with Salala, which is the provincial capital of Dhofar. It was along this line, between Tamrit and Salala that the armed revolution broke out on the 9th June, 1965. During the whole period of the liberation struggle this line has been of special military importance.

According to a communique of the PFLO forces in the eastern zone of Dhofar "the regime closed the line on the 27th of May because it feared the surprise attacks of the Liberation Army. The line has been closed from the most northern to the most southern point with hundreds of soldiers backed up by hundreds of tanks and other heavy weapons"(Aden Voice of Oman Revolution, quoted in SWB 6-28, 1979).

In spite of these measures the Liberation Army carried out a successful attack on one of the enemy's advanced military positions along "The Red Line". The attack took place on the loth of June, the commencement date of a new year of the revolution. According to the above-mentioned communique

the revolutionary forces used machine-guns and rockets at very close range in the attack. The revolutionary forces controlled the battleground completely. The losses of the enemy were as follows: 11 killed soldiers, a destroyed machine-gun, a destroyed wireless set and two completely destroyed fortified positions. The Liberation Army had no losses.

NEWS FROM THE SUPPORT WORK

In July the Danish Emmaus and "Clothes for Africa" arranged a very successful summer camp in support of the PFLO and ZANU. The two support organizations held two well-attended flea markets with a turn-over of 9o.ooo Danish Kroner(App. 17.ooo US$). In addition to the collection activities the participants of the camp read about the liberation struggles in Oman and Zimbabwe, and they participated in lectures and slideshows.

Emmaus Fnysinge which is one of the leading Western organizations working in support of the PFLO has recently published its annual report of 1978. Emmaus Fnysinge is an anti-imperialistic organization in Sweden. The goal of the organization is "to provide as much support as possible to the national liberation movements in their struggle against imperialism, because this struggle is the most important contribution to the liberation of man from both social and economic oppression". In order to promote this political goal Emmaus Fnysinge arranges flea markets every week. The annual report shows that this year the surplus of the flea markets was 216.ooo Swedish Kroners(App US$ 5o.ooo) which breaks the record of Emmaus Fnysinge. The surplus is given in support of the PFLO. Furthermore, 3o tons of clothes and shoes have been sent to ZANU. This achievement is very impressing in view of the fact that this year only 2-3 members of the organization have been working full-time on the support work. The achievement has been possible because Emmaus Fnysinge co-operates with a group of Iranian students and a number of other anti-imperialistic groups and individuals. A special example of this co-operation is the work that was done in support of the PFLP in the spring 1978. Following the Israeli invasion in Lebanon in March, Emmaus Fnysinge called on a number of organizations to help collecting for a flea market in support of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. Emmaus Fnysinge and three other leftist organizations arranged the flea market which had a turn-over of 8.2oo Swedish Kroner(app. US$ 1.8oo). Furthermore, 2,2 tons of clothes were sent to the refugee camps. The

groups involved also distributed leaflets informing about the present development in the Middle East.

In addition to the collecting activities Emmaus Fnysinge has arranged study-circles, partly about the liberation struggles in Africa, and partly about imperialism in general. Furthermore, Emmaus Fnysinge translates "News from Oman" into Swedish under the title of "Oman Brev". At the moment Emmaus Fnysinge is looking for new premises for their flea markets because the owner of the present ones has terminated the tenancy.

On the 15th June a solidarity meeting in support of the PFLO was held in London commemorating the 14th anniversary of the armed struggle in Oman. The meeting was arranged by Tricontinental Group - an organization formed by revolutionary movements from Latin America, Asia and Africa. Speeches were delivered, and a number of solidarity messages from revolutionary organizations in Iran, Bahrain, Palestine, Sri Lanka, England, Zimbabwe, Eritrea, Argentina and Chile were read out. There was also an exhibition of photographs illustrating the struggle of the Omani people; and the participants of the meeting watched films from Oman and Palestine. About 2oo people attended the meeting, and £ 2oo were collected in support of the PFLO.

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